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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am an independent freelance digital media consultant who is critically dependent on high-speed, broadband access to the Internet.

I chose my independent ISP provider -- Sonic, based in Santa Rosa, Calif. -- specifically because their service was outstanding and rates were lower for similar service levels compared to AT&T and Comcast.

At first I subscribed to their DSL service but within a year or two, they were stringing fiber-optic cable in my neighborhood and, amazingly, they offered me fiber Internet access, with no data cap and at gigabit speed (up- and download) at a price that was only slightly higher than DSL.

This is a mostly-local provider that goes head-to-head with Big Telco and offers service and prices substantially better than even the "teaser-offer" deals that AT&T, Comcast or Verizon offer.

I have built my business around the speed and no-cap offering of Sonic and, were I to be forced back into the clutches of the distinctly non-competitive Big Telco providers, I probably would have to raise my prices or turn down jobs that would be prohibitively costly in time and data-transfer otherwise.

We need more ISPs like Sonic in this country, not fewer. We certainly do not need to hand the big three broadband providers even more monopoly power. Please support local broadband providers!

James Irwin